

From: [Kelly, Joyce](#)
To: [Cox, Michael](#)
Cc: [Fleming, Sheila](#)
Subject: RE: Yakima - Peer review
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:37:50 AM

Hi Mike: Looks good. Thank you.

Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OEA-095
Seattle, WA 98101
206 553-4029

From: Cox, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:37 PM
To: Kelly, Joyce
Cc: Fleming, Sheila; Cox, Michael
Subject: RE: Yakima - Peer review

Joyce: Take a look, a few suggestions and additional comment below. Thanks.

EPA's response: Agency guidance provides several options for the peer review of documents classified as "Influential" under the OMB work product criteria. Consistent with Agency Peer Review Guidance, EPA utilized an external peer review approach, which included scientists from USGS, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, scientists from EPA's Office of Research and Development and EPA Region 10 conducted internal peer reviews ~~were from the EPA Office of Research and Development and EPA Region 10.~~ EPA considered the peer reviewers' comments on the EPA 2012 Report and revised the EPA Report in response to the comments. The independent peer review process helped EPA solidify its conclusions and clarify the limitations and uncertainties of the study.

Brief comments do not necessarily imply a lack of rigor; brief comments could have resulted from a rigorous review in which the reviewer found the EPA 2012 Report's conclusions to be well supported by data. As noted in previous responses above, EPA's conclusions do not preclude the possibility of multiple sources of nitrate. This possibility does not negate or diminish the conclusions that were stated in the EPA 2012 Report. The ten monitoring wells installed by EPA in December 2012 in the vicinity of the dairies were of known depth and construction; however, this additional information, while informative and useful, was not necessary to substantiate the conclusions in the EPA 2012 Report.

Michael Cox
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-1597
cox.michael@epa.gov

From: Kelly, Joyce
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 12:12 PM
To: Cox, Michael
Subject: Yakima - Peer review

Hi Mike: Suggested language is below. Feel free to modify and to let me know any questions.

EPA's response: Agency guidance provides several options for the peer review of documents

classified as “Influential” under the OMB work product criteria. Consistent with Agency Peer Review Guidance, EPA utilized an external peer approach, which included scientists from USGS, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The internal peer reviewers were from the EPA Office of Research and Development and EPA Region 10. EPA considered the comments on the draft EPA Report and revised the EPA Report in response to the comments. The independent review process helped EPA solidify its conclusions and clarify the limitations and uncertainties of the study.

Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
Office of Environmental Assessment
US EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OEA-095
Seattle, WA 98101
206 553-4029